HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 14 No. 7 - July, 2006

President's Letter

by Howard, AB9FH

Hello to all!

I hope you all are having an easier time keeping cool this Summer than I am.

Our family enjoyed the 4th of July weekend at my folk's cottage on a little lake in central Wisconsin, and I am missing floating in that cool water. Last Wednesday (the 5th), we dropped Sarah, KB9ZNC, and her sister Abbie off in Chicago so they could head down to Brazil for a couple of weeks. They are in the Fortaleza area, within 10 degrees of the equator. I bet they are missing the lake more than I!

Every three months or so, K3UD, a ham from Kentucky, publishes the changes in total number of ham licenses as well as a breakdown by license class. Like most statistics, these numbers can be used to justify both the Chicken Littles and the ostriches among us. What I find most interesting is this: between 1980 and 2000, the number of hams in the US nearly doubled. When people talk about the "golden age" of ham radio, they usually mean a much earlier time. That kind of growth has not been sustained, but most of those hams are keeping their license, which indicates interest even if the activity is not there. I take heart in the number of new General and Extra class licenses that are being issued.

I mentioned before that I want to do something special for our club's 90th anniversary. My current ideas include a special event station (of course), balloon launch and a public lecture series. Let me know if you have other ideas. I want to keep this process in the open as much as possible, in the hope of getting some of you to come out of the woodwork to make these ideas into realities.

I'm repeating myself, but I want to thank everyone who was able to make it to our Field Day site this year. Sarah, KB9ZNC, and I had fun digging callsigns out of the sideband soup on 40 meters, and we even got my son, Charlie, to take a turn at the mic. He says he wants to come back for next year. Another possibility for next year: another club has expressed, unofficially, a desire to join us at Pioneer Village! It seems that other clubs are coveting our situation. We have the Ozaukee County Historical Society to thank for that.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the meeting this month. We will be having a roundtable discussion on homebrewing. I know we have several active and creative homebrewers among our membership.

Until then, keep cool and 73!

MRAC Officers

President
Howard Parks AB9FH

Vice President
Joe Schwarz N9UX

Secretary
Charles Grady KC9IIV

Treasurer
Sarah Parks KB9ZNC

Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis ('05-'07) KA9OFA

Tom Liebe ('06-'08) WI9TOM

Ted Stiller ('06-'08) WA9RDI

Jerry Wahlen ('05-'07) WA9CGE

Dick Wood ('05-'07) W9JBE

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Nets Heard in the Milwaukee Area

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130	ARRL voice news
Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130	MAARS Swapnet
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270	Weather & Swap Net
Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m. SSB Net
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri	**8:00 PM**	**28.490**	**MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)**
Fri.	**9:00 PM**	**145.390-**	**W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net**
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800	FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are $17.^{00}$ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9FH WB9LNU KF9PU
WB9BWP KB9ZNC

Our thanks also goes to:

Rita Doneis, Howard Parks, and Tom Fuszard, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.

Thanks also to Dick Wood, for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter and to Joe Schwarz, who

Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, and Tom Fuszard who manage our VEC.

Thank YOU!

Think HAM Radio?

Did you ever wonder what others (outsiders) think about amateur radio?

Help convince the uninformed that Ham Radio isn't dead (or even dying yet). Check out this student project blog at:

crushingtone.com

and let the world know what you think and the exciting roads down which Ham Radio is headed.

General Membership Meeting 6/29/06

By Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC

Howard Parks, AB9FH, called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m..

There was no mic because the church choir was practicing upstairs and their mic was on the same frequency as ours. All those present identified themselves despite the lack of a microphone. Those who had interesting QSOs or reports on frequency performance told about them during buzz talk.

Our secretary, Charles Grady, KC9IIV, was unable to attend the meeting. Former secretary Brian White, K9LCQ, read the minutes.

Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA, made a motion to accept the minutes as read, which was seconded by Tom Liebe, WI9TOM. There was no discussion, and the measure passed on a voice vote.

Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC, gave the treasurer's report. Howard Parks, AB9FH, took this opportunity to highlight the fact that last month's auction brought in $210. There were no additions or corrections, so Les Hundt, AB9EY, made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA.

Howard Parks, AB9FH, gave official thanks to Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA, and Jim Tromblay, WB9LNU, for accepting the roles of Field Day chairmen.

Howard then asked for a report on the Miller Ride and the Greater Midwest Relay, which used our repeater. Mark Tellier, AB9CD, reported that both MR and GMR appreciated the use of our repeater, and agreed with Howard Parks' recommendation that a more formal petition be requested for next year.

Howard then informed the membership that next month we will be trying a new arrangement; the program will be held first thing in the evening, and then we will have our customary break followed by the business meeting. This is because many people have a habit of leaving after the business meeting, and the board felt that if someone took the time to prepare a program they should have a good attendance. Comments and opinions on this new arrangement are encouraged. Howard also suggested that it be considered that the minutes be automatically accepted, as they are printed each month in the 'Chatter. Ted Stiller, WA9RDI, stated that from a personal standpoint he appreciated having the minutes read each month. There were no other comments at this time.

Two $25 gift certificates to AES were accidentally left out of last month's auction, so Howard called on Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP, to auction them off. Both went to Allen J. Maahs, KC9IJJ, for a total of $50.

Brian White, K9LCQ, requested that the new officers and directors stand and identify themselves to the membership. Our new officers are Howard Parks, AB9FH, president; Joe Schwarz, N9UX, vice-president; Charles Grady, KC9IIV, secretary (not present); and Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC, treasurer. Our new directors are Ted Stiller, WA9RDI; and Tom Liebe, WI9TOM. Mark Tellier, AB9CD, requested that the older board members also be pointed out; they are Dick Wood, W9JBE; Jerry Wahlen, WA9CGE, and Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA.

Vern Teske, W9RYA announced the South Milwaukee Radio Club swapfest on Friday July 7th through Saturday July 8th. Howard Parks, AB9FH, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Tom Liebe, WI9TOM, made a motion and Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA, seconded the motion.

Unfortunately, Sarah, KB9ZNC, who was called upon to step in as secretary failed to notice the exact time the meeting ended, but we'll say it was about 7:45.

Repeater Stuff

by Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP

It's time to start discussing some of the new features and functions of the repeater. Things are still changing and being added but the pace is slowing so here we are...

Last fall a new controller was added to the repeater. We are now able to program the controller via computer and modem and configuration files. That is much easier than before. If you hear some strange CW happening (especially "QSL", a question mark, and the phrase "err" with some numbers) that usually means someone is working with the controller. The CW is status messages sent over the air.

Besides having a synthesized male and female voice for IDs and announcements, the controller also contains a vocabulary of words spoken by a professional voice over artist as well as allowing the playing of audio files (it DOES NOT function as a DVR as some have discussed on the air). We now have a number of special guest voices doing announcements and IDs. First is the self-contained words spoken by the voice over artist (who is a ham, KF4IWT). When Gordon West appeared at our club meeting in March we had him record a number of messages and you can hear some of those. Two female voices can also be heard. One is

Repeater cont. on pg.4

2006 Field Day Report

by Jim, WB9LNU and Pancho, KA9OFA

As always, Field Day was fun. We made approximately 722 points.

Thanks to Pancho, KA9OFA, who accepted the Chairman position at the last moment with help from Jim, WB9LNU, the club participated again this year.

As you all may know, you can participate in Field Day from your home QTH using your own call. It's just not as much fun as sharing the event with your friends. It is also a great time to renew friendships that may have faded away.

We had 5 simultaneous stations on the air plus one of the stations doubled as a GOTA (Get On The Air Station). Jerry, WA9CGE, operated PSK31. John, WB9PSE, operated exclusively on CW and the rest of us were on SSB. A total of 20 members and 21 guests attended. Almost all of our members made at least one contact. Most made 20 or more. Band conditions were not very good on 80 meters (static crashes) and nothing on 10 meters. 15 and 20 meters were the best. Our highest scoring SSB operators were Tom, KG9EE, Mark, KB9LDX, and Sarah, KB9ZNC.

A very special thanks to Charles, KC9IIV, for providing lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. All was very good including an ample supply of fresh fruit. Also thanks to Mark, AB9CD, for being the club's contact with the Pioneer Village Board, site staff and cleaning up after the event. I spoke with the village caretaker at dinner on Saturday night and he told me that MRAC and an Antique Tractor Club are number one on the Pioneer Village board's list for welcomed groups to use the village for Field Day.

MRAC Members who attended:

Pancho, KA9OFA
Jim, WB9LNU
Charles, KC9IIV
Sarah, KB9ZNC
Howard, AB9FH
Jerry, WA9CGE
Joe, N9UX
Tom, KG9EE
John, WB9PSE
Les, AB9EY
Jerry, KA9AJF
Ken, W9MOT
Jackie, KB9LDW
Mark, KA9LDX
Bill, KC9IMK
Jim, K9UGD
Russ, KC0ECT
Mark, AB9CD
Al, N9RXD
Ted, WA9RDI

Our youth operators 18 years or younger were Sarah, KB9ZNC and her brother Charlie who is not licensed yet. Charlie made 7 contacts with guidance from Howard, AB9FH.

Six members spent the night. At our midnight break we enjoyed a pleasant chat and Jerry, KA9AJF, played his harmonica for us. He's very good!

We all had fun! Pancho and I wish to thank you all and we shall do it again next year.

Jim, WB9LNU and
Pancho, KA9OFA

Repeater cont. from pg. 3

Julie Cudahy, aka Jules who does a weekly (Thursdays 6-9 p.m.) radio show on WMSE FM 91.7 MHz (besides being the engineer for the station). Thanks to Julie and WMSE for doing some recording for us (tell them you heard about it here).

The other female voice doing special event announcements like the Gordon West meeting, the auction, Field Day and others is my wife, Leslie . I have her doing the short time and changing announcements, as it is easy to get them recorded and edited when needed. At Field Day we will have the equipment to record anyone who wants to be an "announcer" for the club. Those voices will be integrated in the coming weeks.

We now have a number of automatic functions operating (also due to the new controller) so people do not have to be at a telephone at a certain time. We will discuss them next time.

Stay tuned for more repeater technical and operating info in the coming months.

EVENTS

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu., July 27, 2006
7:00 p.m.
Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

W9ZL Special Event Station
for EAA Fly-In
Thu. - Sun., Jul. 27 - 30, 2006
1300 - 2000 UTC
Oshkosh, WI
7,250 & 14,270 KHz & VHF

2006 Central States VHF
Annual Conference
Fri., & Sat., July 28 & 29, 2006
Ramada Mall- of-America
Bloomington, MN

Bolingbrook HamFest 2006 *
Sun., August 6th, 2006
Bolingbrook High Schol
Bolingbrook, IL
T/I on 147.33 + MHz & 224.54 - MHz

Circus City SwapFest *
SAT. - AUG 12, 2006
Sauk Co . Fairgrounds
Baraboo, WI

Radio EXPO *
Sat. & Sun., Aug. 26 & 27, 1006
Lake County Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
146.16/76 MHz (107.2 Hz PL

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu., Aug. 31, 2006
7:00 p.m.
Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Ozaukee Outdoor
HAM & Hobby Swapfest
Sat. - Sep. 9, 2006
Circle B Recreation Center
Cedarburg, WI

SEWFARS SwapFest *
Sun. - Sep. 10, 2006
Richfield Chalet
Hubertus, WI
T/I on 146.82 (PL 127.3

* indicates VE testing is available.

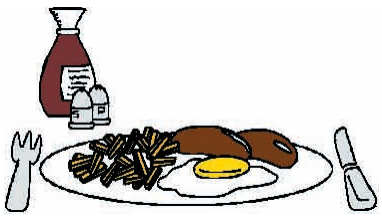
REMINDERS!

Please check into our nets on Friday evenings.

Our ten meter SSB net is at 8:00 p.m. at 28.490 MHz USB.

Our two meter FM net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at 145.390 MHz with a minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz.

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.



GENERAL CLASS POOL INFO

BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

The NCVEC's Question Pool Committee has begun work on a new General Class question pool, and welcomes input from the amateur radio community.

If you have questions for the new pool, or suggestions for material that should be changed or deleted, feel free to contact the committee.

For individual questions or short suggestions, use the form found at www.ncvec.org/feedback.php. Groups of questions may be submitted to qpcinput@ncvec.org. You may use Microsoft Word or plain text for your material. Refer to the current General Class pool for chapter content and format.

Please understand that the final decision about a particular suggestion rests with the QPC. They promise to review all suggestions, but will use only those considered appropriate.

The QPC expects to release the new pool by December 1. It will take effect on July 1, 2007.

EXAM SCHEDULE

BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

MRAC VEC
Exam Schedule
Summer & Fall 2006

Sat., July 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Sat., Sept. 30, 2006 - 9:30 @ AES
Sat., Oct. 28, 2006 - 9:30 @ AES
Sat., Nov. 25, 2006 - 9:30 @ AES

AES = Amateur Electronic Supply
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

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HAMATEURCHATTER

The **next meeting** of **MRAC**
will be **Thursday, July 27, 2006**
at 7:00 p.m.
Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

Our program for the July 27th general meeting will be a Roundtable Discussion on Homebrewing.

Our Repeater, Talk it up.
145.390– MHz
(127.3 Hz PL)

Visit our new website at: **www.w9rh.org**
Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**
332-6722

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Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
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First Class